

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This Weekend: 13th & 14th April
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: G Priestley
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: P Howman
Computer: K Howman

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Loftus
Prayers: M Schultz
Minister: M McGennissen
Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 20th & 21st April

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Bennett
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: Di Kierce
Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Picard
Prayers: A McIntyre
Minister: I Eichler
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 27th & 28th April

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Baudinette
Prayers: P Howman
Minister: K Howman
Computer: Di Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B Healy
Prayers: K Loftus
Minister: B McGennissen
Computer: B Dillon

All Saints Outreach Op-Shop:

(In Woolworth's Car park)
Phone: 5521 1587

The Parish Outreach Op-Shop is always in need of good quality clothing, bric a brac or furniture.

Donations during shop hours only.

Please ring Outreach for pick up if necessary. Thank you all for your ongoing support of Outreach.

Outreach is normally open

Monday 1pm - 3pm
Tuesday 10am - 1pm
Wednesday 10am - 3pm
Thursday 10am - 3pm
Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 12pm

Outreach is a significant fundraiser within the Parish and we regularly need Volunteers to give 3 hours in the mornings or afternoons.

We currently have a pressing need for Volunteers on Thursday from 1-3pm.

Please contact Kate Howman 0428235218 or Diane Kierce 0427946053 for further information.

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

All Saints Parish has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your First Communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. By leaving a gift to your Parish in your Will, you will leave a legacy of faith – a legacy to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue both for today's needs and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

If you would like to receive a weekly copy of "The Spire" by email, please send us an email and we can add you to a list of subscribers



14th of April
2024

3rd Sunday in
Easter
Year B



3rd Week in Easter Services 16th to 21st of April 2024

Tuesday 2.00pm Funeral Prayers
Christine Kelly

Wednesday: 10.00am Mass
4.30pm Rosary

Thursday: 10.00am Mass
2.00pm Funeral Prayers Joseph Morrissey

Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass
5.00pm Evening Prayer

20th & 21st of April 4th Sunday in Easter

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths: Joseph Morrissey

Anniversaries: 15th to 21st of April.

Anne Martin, Kevin Kearney, Mary Roarty IBVM, Matthew Couttie, Thelma Churchill, Patricia Bailey, Dawn Clancey, Graeme Sewell, Stephen Quinlivan, Lenny Kirwan, Stan Fredericks, Elda Strada, Mary Guy, Baylee Rogers, Margaret Noske, Valerie Dooley, Elizabeth Kearney, Rev. Francis Madden, Rachel Twomey, Kathleen Holliday, Mignon Kinnane, Marianne Kirk.

Prayer Requests:

Les Hildebrand, Lea-anne Bourke, Michelle Mutch, Deanne Atkinson, Jose Trimble.

If you have any prayer requests please contact Antonella at the Parish Office; for privacy reasons only Next of Kin may ask for names to be added: Thank you.

Baptisms and Marriages

by appointment with Fr. Gregory Tait.

Sacrament of Penance

1st Saturday of the month at 10.00am
or any other time by appointment with Fr Gregory
Southern Stars Family Group:

Please join us at the Portland Botanic Gardens on Sunday 14 April at midday. BYO picnic lunch or something for the BBQ, chair/rug/games and anything else you would like. We will be at the end of the main path where we have been on other occasions. Wet weather venue will be under cover at Fawthrop Lagoon at the end of Hood St. Looking forward to seeing you then.
Regards Lynda Cooper.

"The Spire"

All Saints Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints Parish Office
Entry via 8 Henty Street
PO Box 210 Portland 3305

Phone: 5523 1046

email: portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.

email: greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Mobile 0475 512530

Parish Office Hours: Most Tuesdays to Fridays
9.00am till 3.00pm or by appointment
with Fr Gregory

All Saints Parish is committed to Child Safety - our Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct are on display on the Parish website and noticeboard in the Tower Entrance of the Church.

All Saints Parish Portland acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our Parish Community meets, the Gunditjmarra people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and constitutional acknowledgement of first nation peoples.

Magellan Media: Jesus is risen. Now what?

The Easter weekend feast has ended, the chocolate bunnies are gone (except maybe that stubborn one hiding behind the couch!), the family gathering has been enjoyed by all and the echoes of hymns have quieted. But hold on! The Easter story isn't a one-act play; it's the foundation of the Christian faith, a wellspring of hope that flows into every day of our lives. So, how do we keep that Easter spirit alive?

Here's a recipe for keeping the joy in our lives: First, sprinkle in a generous amount of gratitude. Take some quiet time to reflect on the incredible gift of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. Because of Him, death doesn't have the final word, and we have the chance for a deeper relationship with God. Let that fill your heart with thankfulness. Imagine a jar overflowing with reasons to be grateful – Jesus' love, forgiveness, the beauty of nature – and open it up whenever you need a little boost.

Next, add a heaped cup of "sharing the joy." Easter is a time for renewal, a chance to refresh the world around us. Think about someone who might be feeling down – a neighbour, a co-worker, even a stranger on the bus. Offer a helping hand, a listening ear, or simply a warm smile. Let the light of Jesus shine through you, illuminating someone else's day. Remember, even the smallest act of kindness can have a ripple effect, spreading joy further than you might imagine.

Finally, fold in a generous helping of "remembering Jesus' presence." The Easter story isn't just about a historical event in the past; it's about a living presence that walks beside us every day. Keep Jesus close throughout your journey. Talk to him, thank him for his love and guidance, and find strength in his constant companionship. Easter celebrations may be over, but the joy of the resurrection is ours to carry forward. With a heart brimming with gratitude, a spirit overflowing with love, and the ever-present awareness of Jesus by our side, we can live each day with the radiant hope that Christ brings.

May we find Easter joy every day.

A ministry of the Redemptorists of Oceania

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Planned Given inc. eft \$931.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023–2024, \$42,726.10

Project Compassion 2024 \$1278.00.

Direct deposit payments for planned giving and donations can be made electronically. Details are as follows:

Account Name: Portland Catholic Church
BSB: 083 532
Account No. 5159 81661

Presbytery Account

Priest support, inc eft: \$ 673.45

Direct deposit payments for the presbytery account can be made electronically. Details are as follows:

Account Name:

All Saints Presbytery Portland
BSB: 083 526
Account No. 24476 6002

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people;

¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁷'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Second Reading 1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

³Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. ⁴Whoever says, 'I have come to know him', but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; ⁵but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him:

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:35-48

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

^{24:35} Then the disciples told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praying with Pope Francis:

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service.

Pope's intention for April:

For the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

This week we again see something of the quirky nature of the selection of readings for the Sunday lectionary. This passage from the gospel of Luke immediately follows the magnificent story of the road to Emmaus and the risen Jesus' appearance to two disciples. Rather than hearing that story we have this account that follows; an account that is very similar to the passage of last week in which Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples and dispelled the doubts of Thomas. This week's reading is almost identical except that it does not place the blame of doubt on just one single disciple. Why select this reading as opposed to the Emmaus story? Perhaps the decision focused on the fact that this passage shows the risen Jesus appearing to all of the disciples and not just two.

However, what this account gives us that last week's account from the gospel of John did not, is a powerful message about understanding scripture. In the final verses of the passage, Jesus reveals to the disciples that his presence with them is what he'd been talking about when he'd spoken about the fulfilment of the scriptures. And then, 'He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.' This is an important gospel indication that the scriptures are to be read for understanding and for meaning. It is an imperative that we delve into the scriptures and look for meaning rather than a surface, literal interpretation that is prominent in much of society today. When we only read the scriptures 'literally' i.e. accepting the exact wording as literally true, we deny the depth and breadth of the scriptural messages that are conveyed through image, metaphor, irony and other forms of figurative speech as well as ignoring the rich contextual information that is often hidden within and behind the text. Jesus' enlightenment of the disciples makes plain the importance of 'understanding' scripture not just blindly accepting it.

Scriptural context – Post-resurrection accounts.

All four gospels include post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus. The gospel of Mark – historically, the first written – gives the briefest account of the resurrection discovery and it is only in a later addition to the gospel that a post-resurrection account appears. However, by the time the gospel of John was written, some 20-30 years later, the theological importance of the resurrection had gained more significance as it became more obvious that Jesus' return to the world was not going to happen within the foreseeable future. The gospel of John devotes two whole chapters to the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

Have you thought? Is 'Literal' wrong?

Is there really something intrinsically wrong about a literal interpretation of scripture? Not at all! It is indeed an essential tool of any scriptural interpretation. It is of course important that we first and foremost understand the text as it is written – we have to have a literal understanding of the words that are used and what they mean. The problem arises when this is as far as we go. If we stop at this stage then we are shutting ourselves off from the richness of the scriptures. If we fail to dig below the surface then we are denying ourselves the opportunity of scrutinising our lives in the light of the scripture.

Gospel Focus – Peace be with you.

When Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, his first words to them are, 'Peace be with you!' His appearance among them obviously agitated the disciples who were already hiding, in fear of their lives and devastated by the loss of their leader days earlier. Jesus' calming and reassuring words, 'Peace be with you!' recognise the reality of what state the disciples are in. The words demonstrate that Jesus is meeting the disciples 'where they are' – he recognises their distress and fear and responds with words that accept what they're feeling but reassure them of his love and care. They are words that Jesus speaks to us too!

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What elements of this passage do you find surprising, challenging or comforting?
2. Why do you think the gospel writer emphasises the 'physical' nature of Jesus' resurrection?
3. Where do you see a 'literal' interpretation of scripture being applied today?
4. Why is a deeper 'understanding' of scripture important?

Learning moments.

- Read the post-resurrection accounts of each of the four gospels and make observations about the similarities and differences that are evident. (Mk 16; Mt 28; Lk 24 & Jn 20-21)

© Greg Sunter: Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.